

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
December 4, 2006**

**Contact: Sandy Focken
(502) 582-5911**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

ILLEGAL ALIENS PLEAD GUILTY TO COCAINE DISTRIBUTION

– DEA buy keeps \$1.6 million of cocaine off streets

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **GERARDO CASTRO-ACOSTA**, age 24, address unknown, and **PEDRO PACHECO-LOPEZ**, age 19, of 19155 Havasupai, Casa Grande, Arizona, **pled guilty** to conspiracy to possess and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

The maximum potential penalties are life imprisonment, an \$8,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of at least five years.

Castro-Acosta and **Pacheco-Lopez** both pled guilty and admitted that from on or about March 2, 2006, until on or about March 13, 2006, in Jefferson County, Kentucky, they, along with co-defendant **Rogelio Omar Santos-Montelongo**, knowingly conspired with each other to possess with the intent to distribute 15.97 kilograms of cocaine, worth approximately \$1,600,000 at the street level, and that on or about March 13, 2006, they knowingly and intentionally possessed with the intent to distribute that cocaine.

Castro-Acosta and **Pacheco-Lopez** are both illegal aliens who are subject to deportation after serving their sentence. **Santos-Montelongo** previously pled guilty to the charges against him and is awaiting sentencing.

- MORE -

On March 2, 2006, agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) purchased one kilogram of cocaine from **Santos-Montelongo** for \$20,000.00. On March 13, 2006, another purchase of cocaine was negotiated with **Santos-Montelongo**. Recorded calls were made during the negotiations to purchase the 16 kilograms of cocaine. The cocaine was delivered in two white drywall plaster buckets. **Santos-Montelongo** and **Castro-Acosta** unloaded the cocaine from the buckets and placed it on a table. At that point, DEA agents placed **Santos-Montelongo** and **Castro-Acosta** under arrest.

A search warrant was then executed at 6006 Cooper Chapel Road, the residence that **Santos-Montelongo** and **Castro-Acosta** left just before delivering the cocaine. **Pacheco-Lopez** was present at this residence, and he admitted to driving the "load truck" from Mexico to Louisville. Agents discovered the load truck at the residence, with the drive shaft removed. Cocaine residue was discovered inside the drive shaft. The 16 kilograms of cocaine that **Santos-Montelongo** and **Castro-Acosta** delivered were consistent in shape with the cylindrical drive shaft.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura L. Hall, and it was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The pleas were entered before Charles R. Simpson, III, Judge, United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky.

Both defendants are scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Charles R. Simpson, III, United States District Court, on February 23, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

- END -

DLH:LLH:sch:061201